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THE ORGANIZATION OF COUNTY AND STATE LEAGUES FOR NURSING EDUCATION

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THE great convention of nurses held in Chicago last May, at which such momentous changes were effected, is several months in the past, and we are facing, in a short time, another at Atlantic City. Have we put into execution the suggestions made there for county and state organization of leagues for nursing education? Moreover, have we a clear mental picture of what really occurred in Chicago? Briefly this:

The American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools revised its constitution and by-laws, changed its name to the National League for Nursing Education, and became an integral part of the American Nurses' Association, although retaining its individuality and purpose. The American Nurses' Association accepted the affiliation, and provided in its by-laws that, in addition to one delegate, the president of the National League should become automatically one of the members of the board of directors. The new National Organization for Public Health Nursing was also organized and accepted by the American Nurses' Association on the same terms.

The American Nurses' Association is, as it now exists, an amalgamation of three important Societies: the large body, the American Nurses' Association, originally the Associated Alumnae, representing all phases of nursing work but, most particularly, the private nurse; The League for Nursing Education, representing the education of the nurse and the hospital; The Public Health Organization, representing visiting, school, and all forms of public health nursing.

But it must not rest at this. To make this Association one of great strength, it is necessary that the various states shall be so organized that no district, however remote, may not come into intimate touch and close relations with the national organizations. Profiting by the experience of other organizations, political and otherwise, which have found the county and state society or committee the safest and strongest form of organization, provision has, therefore, been made by the National League that the presidents of the state leagues shall become members of

the council of the National League, and that the state league shall be made up very largely of local leagues.

Following out the plan adopted in New York State, let me explain more fully. The State League has one class of members, active. Active members are again subdivided into two types, the individual and organizations, thus making it possible for an individual doing some form of educational work in a remote district to join the state league directly, or membership may be through local organizations, which may be either city, country or even district, according to the number of individuals who may be eligible, for example: the New York City League has between 75 or 100 members, while one in a locality with a more scattered training-school and hospital population may have a small membership and yet include several counties. As it is always a wise plan to secure uniformity, and avoid confusion, the constitution and by-laws of the New York State and the New York City Leagues for Nursing Education, herewith appended, may prove helpful to other states which are considering the question of organization.

It is most important that these state leagues should be organized promptly, so that application for membership in the National League may be sent to the secretary before the next annual meeting. The National League also needs the presidents of the state leagues to make up the council, and the state leagues need the presidents of the local leagues to form their councils. This organization plan, which is in reality very simple, resembles an endless chain which can make, if properly organized, of our National League, a body of great strength and power. Moreover, it makes it possible to reach every part of this great country and link nursing interests in a systematic and business-like way.

Another interesting affiliation in New York State is that with the New York State Nurses' Association, which has also provided, in its by-laws, for the automatic admission to the executive committee of the president of the state league, so that all organizations may come into closer relations by this form of organization and stand together more firmly, in case the united efforts of the nursing profession should be needed in any important measure. The vital purpose of the national, state and local league is to uphold educational standards, the unit of the organization being the individual superintendent or assistant superintendent, instructor, etc.; therefore, it should be possible to form an unbroken chain of communication throughout the entire United States, and finally, by affiliating with the American Nurses' Association, help to uphold and strengthen the purpose for which it exists.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NEW YORK STATE LEAGUE FOR
NURSING EDUCATION

Article I.—NAME

This Organization shall be known as The New York State League for Nursing Education.

Article II.—OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to consider all questions pertaining to nursing education, such as minimum standards of entrance and graduation qualifications; uniform curricula; and by meetings throughout the state, bring about greater interest in questions of public welfare; more cordial professional relations and fellowship, and in all ways develop and maintain the highest ideals in nursing work.

Article III.—OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be a president; a vice-president; a secretary and a treasurer.

BY-LAWS

Article I.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The president shall preside at annual and special meetings, also meetings of the executive committee; she must also attend the council meetings of the National League for Nursing Education.

The vice-president must act in the absence of the president.

The secretary shall keep the records of the society, shall send out notifications and such duties as the office requires.

The treasurer shall collect all dues, and keep a strict account of all funds; pay all bills, as approved by the president, and submit each year, at the annual meeting, an account of receipts and expenditures.

Article II.—MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

There shall be one class member: 1—active. Active members include individuals and organizations.

SEC. I. Individual members: These shall include superintendents of hospitals and of training schools; assistant superintendents; instructors in nursing; head workers in social, educational and preventive nursing, who are eligible for membership in the New York State Nurses' Association.

SEC. II. Organizations: Local leagues, if qualified as specified in the By-Laws of the New York State Nurses' Association, such organizations to be entitled to one delegate and one vote. In addition to the president who must be a member of executive committee of the State League for Nursing Education.

Applications.—The applications of individuals or organizations shall be made in writing to the chairman of the committee on credentials.

Upon approval by this committee, they must be presented and voted upon by the League at their annual meeting. Suitable forms shall be issued for this purpose.

The applications from both individuals and organizations must conform to the requirements as stipulated in the By-Laws of the New York State Nurses' Association.

Voting.—Officers, individual members and duly accredited delegates only shall be entitled to vote.

Delegates.—In addition to the president, each city, county or district league is entitled to send one delegate.

Article III.—MEETINGS

The meetings of the State League of Nursing Education shall be held annually and conjointly with the New York State Nurses' Association. Notices of such meetings to be sent to each member, at least one month in advance. The executive committee shall hold a meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting, and at such other times as shall be deemed necessary.

A special meeting may be called by the president, upon the written request of three local leagues, and five individual members.

Article IV.—ANNUAL DUES

The dues for individual members shall be 50 cents yearly, and for organizations at the rate of 10 cents per capita.

The dues are payable at annual meetings before the votes are cast.

Article V.—ELECTIONS

A nominating committee of three members shall be appointed at the annual meeting of the executive committee. This committee shall select one name for each office to be filled, and shall post this list together with the names of the presidents of the local leagues. Additional nominations for any office may be made from the floor. The officers are eligible for re-election.

Local leagues shall nominate their presidents, and present such names to the nominating committee previous to the opening session of the annual meeting.

Article VI.—COMMITTEES

The officers of the state league, together with the presidents of the local leagues, shall form the executive committee.

Duties.—The executive committee shall provide for meetings, and supervise the affairs of the society; appoint the chairmen of committees and fill, until the annual meeting, any vacancy in office that may occur. There shall be a standing committee on credentials, and such other committees as may be found necessary. The chairman of each shall be selected by the executive committee, and each chairman shall then be allowed to select her own colleagues.

The credential committee shall investigate, and be responsible for the authenticity of all credentials, and shall make a report at the annual meeting.

Article VII.—QUORUM

The quorum shall be the number of members present at any regular meeting of the state league, or of the executive committee. The majority shall rule, except where otherwise provided for.

Article VIII.—AMENDMENTS

Amendments shall be made as provided for in the By-Laws of the New York State Nurses' Association.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NEW YORK CITY LEAGUE FOR NURSING EDUCATION

Article I.—NAME

This organization shall be known as The New York City League for Nursing Education.

Article II.—OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to create a forum for the discussion of questions having to do with nursing education in all its aspects: the training school, private duty, institutional work and public health work. It shall thoroughly acquaint itself with local conditions and uphold at all times the highest ideals and standards.

Article III.—OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

BY-LAWS

Article I.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The president shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the league and at meetings of the executive committee; she shall also attend the executive committee meetings of the State League for Nursing Education, of which she must be a member.

The vice-president must act in the absence of the president.

The secretary shall keep the records of the society; shall send out notifications and perform such other duties as the office requires.

The treasurer shall collect all dues, and keep a strict account of all funds; pay all bills as approved by the president, and submit each year at the annual meeting an account of receipts and expenditures. She shall prepare a similar report for the monthly sessions of the Association.

Article II.—MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Members shall include superintendents of hospitals and of training schools; assistant superintendents who are eligible only when holding office; instructors in nursing; head workers in social, educational and preventive nursing, who are eligible for membership in the New York State Nurses' Association.

Applications.—Applications shall be made in writing to the chairman of the committee on credentials. Upon approval by this committee, they must be presented and voted upon by the league at any regular meeting. Suitable forms will be issued for this purpose. The applications must conform to the requirements as stipulated in the By-Laws of the New York State Nurses' Association.

Article III.—MEETINGS

The meetings of the New York City League for Nursing Education shall be held monthly, beginning on the first Wednesday in November, and including the first Wednesday in May; notices of such meetings to be sent to each member.

The executive committee shall hold meetings at the call of the chairman. A special meeting may be called by the president upon the written request of five members.

Article IV.—ANNUAL DUES

The annual dues for members shall be fifty cents. The dues are payable at the annual meeting before the votes are cast, and the treasurer shall send notice to this effect to each member during the month of November preceding.

Article V.—ELECTIONS

A nominating committee of three members shall be appointed at the March meeting of the league. This committee shall select one name for each office and for the three additional members of the executive committee, and shall post this list at the April meeting. The election shall take place at the annual meeting. Additional nominations for any office may be made from the floor. The officers are eligible for re-election.

Article VI.—COMMITTEES

The officers of the league, with three additional members, shall form the executive committee.

Duties.—The executive committee shall provide for meetings and supervise the affairs of the society; appoint the chairmen of committees, and fill until the annual meeting any vacancy in office that may occur. There shall be a standing committee on credentials, and on teaching, and such other committees as may be found necessary.

The chairman of each shall be selected by the executive committee, and each chairman then allowed to select her own colleagues. The credentials committee shall investigate and be responsible for the authenticity of all credentials, and shall make full report at the annual meeting. They shall present a similar report at the monthly sessions of the Association when required. At the annual meeting in May, a programme committee of three members shall be appointed by the president.

Article VII

A quorum shall be the number of members present at any regular meeting of the league or of the executive committee. The majority shall rule except where otherwise provided for.

Article VIII.—AMENDMENTS

Amendments shall be made as provided for in the By-Laws of the New York State Nurses' Association.

THE PART PLAYED BY THE NURSE IN THE REDUCTION OF INFANT MORTALITY *

By MAUDE B. MUSE,
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BEFORE considering methods of preventing infant mortality it is well to ascertain whether or not such conditions exist, and if to an alarming degree. Statistics show that infants are dying in great numbers. Out of every hundred deaths, thirty are infants; and of these, thirty per cent. are under one month.

Where sickness exists there has long been a striving to bring about a cure: only of late years has prevention (which is infinitely more important) been seriously considered. France, threatened with depopulation, was the first nation to recognize the great mortality of infants, and established two institutions to combat it. In England, "Medical Visitors" were employed who went about to advise and instruct mothers. The Germans, too, started an institution, which is near the ideal and has been copied here in Cleveland. In New York, for a time, they prepared a good pure milk, suitable for babies of various ages, to be obtained by any mother at any time at various convenient stations. This plan was a failure, defeating the end desired, as it encouraged

* Awarded the "Cushing" scholarship, in 1912.